

(Washington, DC)— Congresswoman Gwen Moore today decried the decision of Delphi Corp. to shut down their plant in Oak Creek, which employs 1,200 workers in the Milwaukee area. After this morning's announcement, Delphi proceeded to file a motion with a federal bankruptcy judge to cancel its labor contracts with the United Auto Workers (UAW) in response to the UAW's recent rejection of Delphi's offer to slash workers' wages and benefits.

Congresswoman Moore immediately sent a letter to Delphi Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Robert "Steve" Miller, demanding that Delphi and General Motors work with the UAW to provide fair and generous severance packages to any and all dismissed plant workers, as well as honor employee pensions. The letter labeled Delphi's actions as a misuse of the bankruptcy process to cut jobs and wages, and to freeze the retirement and healthcare benefits that so many of its employees have worked hard for over the years and negotiated in good faith.

"It is imperative that Delphi properly compensate its workers, with or without a labor contract. The Delphi employees at the Oak Creek plant will all have to find new jobs—some of them may experience periods of unemployment, and some may be forced to go into early retirement," said Congresswoman Moore. "Delphi must adequately provide for the workers who have been the heart and soul of their business so that they have something to show for their years, and in some cases decades, of loyalty."

The Delphi plant, which produces catalytic converters, has a long history in the Milwaukee area spanning more than 55 years. The plant was originally located on the east side where it produced spark plugs for General Motors. There has been public speculation that if and when Delphi emerges from bankruptcy, the company could move its production of commodity parts such as catalytic converters offshore to Mexico or China. Currently workers at the Oak Creek plant produce 20,000 parts a day for Delphi.

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